

TITLE

LIGHT-EMITTING DEVICE WITH REDUCED LATTICE MISMATCH

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a light-emitting device and in particular to a light-emitting device comprising buffer multilayers of gradual lattice constants to reduce lattice mismatch in the joint of layers.

10 Description of the Related Art

 Generally, light-emitting devices comprise light emitting and laser diodes. A group-III nitride semiconductor light-emitting diode is fabricated by providing an electrode on a stacked layer structure
15 having a pn-junction type light-emitting part comprising, for example, aluminum gallium indium nitride ($\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_y\text{In}_{1-x-y}\text{N}$, where $0 < x, y < 1$ and $0 < x + y < 1$). The lattice constant of the group-III nitride semiconductor layer is different from that of the substrate.

20 In the stacked layer structure, a buffer layer is generally provided to reduce lattice mismatch between the substrate material and the group-III nitride semiconductor layer constituting the stacked layer structure, thereby forming a high-quality group-III
25 nitride semiconductor layer. Conventionally, for example, in the stacked layer structure for use in a light-emitting device using a sapphire ($\alpha\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ single crystal) substrate, the buffer layer is exclusively

composed of aluminum gallium nitride (compositional formula; $\text{Al}_\alpha\text{Ga}_\beta\text{N}$, where $0 \leq \alpha, \beta \leq 1$).

In Fig. 1, a conventional light-emitting device having a buffer layer is shown. The light-emitting device 10 comprises sapphire as a substrate 100. The stacked layers are formed on the c {0001} plane of the sapphire substrate 100. The stacked layers comprise a buffer layer 102, a first group-III nitride semiconductor layer 104, a first cladding layer 106 consisting of a hexagonal GaN, an active layer 108 consisting of a GaN-based semiconductor layer, a second cladding layer 110, and a second group-III nitride semiconductor layer 112. The buffer layer 102 relaxing lattice mismatch between the substrate and the following stacked layer usually consists of GaN. A first type electrode 116 is deposited on the first group-III nitride semiconductor layer 104, doped with the same conductive type as the first type electrode 116. A second type electrode 114 is deposited on the second group-III nitride semiconductor layer 112, doped with the same conductive type as the first type electrode 114.

However, lattice mismatch between the sapphire substrate and the group-III nitride semiconductor layer is still high (about 13.8%), causing defects in the stacked layer. Lifetime is shortened and light-emitting efficiency is decreased thereby, making it necessary to solve the lattice mismatch.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, an object of the invention is to provide a light-emitting device with reduced lattice mismatch, thereby improving light-emitting efficiency.

5 One feature of the present invention is use of a buffer multilayer comprising a first buffer multilayer, such as $B_xGa_{(1-x)}P$, and a second buffer multilayer, such as $In_yGa_{(1-y)}N$. The buffer multilayer is deposited between the substrate and the first cladding layer. The lattice
10 constant of the bottom layer of the first buffer multilayer is substantially equal to the lattice constant of the substrate. As well, the lattice constant of the first buffer multilayer can increase or decrease layer by layer, enabling the lattice constant of the top layer of
15 the first buffer multilayer to substantially equal that of the bottom of the second buffer multilayer.

Another feature of the present invention is the second buffer multilayer being deposited between the first buffer multilayer and the first cladding layer.
20 The lattice constant of the bottom layer of the second buffer multilayer is substantially equal to the lattice constant of the top layer of the first buffer multilayer. As well, the lattice constant of the second buffer multilayer can increase or decrease layer by layer,
25 enabling the lattice constant of the top layer of the second buffer multilayer to substantially equal that of the first cladding layer.

To achieve the above objects, one aspect of the present invention provides a light-emitting device with

reduced lattice mismatch. The light-emitting device comprises a substrate having a first lattice constant, a first buffer multilayer deposited on the substrate, a second buffer multilayer deposited on the first buffer multilayer, and a GaN base epitaxial layer deposited on the second buffer multilayer. The lattice constant of the first buffer multilayer ranges from a first lattice constant at the bottom of the first buffer multilayer to a second lattice constant at the top of the first buffer multilayer. The lattice constant of the second buffer multilayer ranges from a second lattice constant at the bottom of the second buffer multilayer to a third lattice constant at the top of the second buffer multilayer.

According to the present invention, the substrate comprises silicon. Moreover, the first buffer multilayer is represented by general formula $B_xGa_{(1-x)}P$ (where $0.02 \leq x \leq 1$). Furthermore, the second buffer multilayer is represented by general formula $In_yGa_{(1-y)}N$ (where $0 \leq y \leq 0.059$). Thus, the first lattice constant is about 5.431Å. The second lattice constant is about 4.538Å. The third lattice constant is about 4.51Å.

According to the present invention, the substrate comprises 3C-SiC. Moreover, the first buffer multilayer is represented by general formula $B_xGa_{(1-x)}P$ (where $x=1$). Furthermore, the second buffer multilayer is represented by general formula $In_yGa_{(1-y)}N$ (where $0 \leq y \leq 0.059$). Therefore, the first lattice constant is about 4.32Å. The second lattice constant is about 4.538Å. The third lattice constant is about 4.51Å.

According to the present invention, the substrate comprises GaP. Moreover, the first buffer multilayer is represented by general formula $B_xGa_{(1-x)}P$ (where $0 \leq x \leq 1$). Furthermore, the second buffer multilayer is represented
5 by general formula $In_yGa_{(1-y)}N$ (where $0 \leq y \leq 0.059$). Therefore, the first lattice constant is about 5.45Å. The second lattice constant is about 4.538Å. The third lattice constant is about 4.51Å.

According to the present invention, the substrate
10 comprises GaAs. Moreover, the first buffer multilayer comprises $GaAs_xP_{(1-x)}$ and $B_yGa_{(1-y)}P$ (where $0 \leq X \leq 1$, $0 \leq y \leq 1$). Furthermore, the second buffer multilayer is represented by general formula $In_zGa_{(1-z)}N$ (where $0 \leq z \leq 0.059$). Therefore, the first lattice constant is about
15 5.653Å. The second lattice constant is about 4.538Å. The third lattice constant is about 4.51Å. The $GaAs_xP_{(1-x)}$ layer and the $B_yGa_{(1-y)}P$ layer are matched, and lattice constant of the top layer of the $GaAs_xP_{(1-x)}$ layer and that of the bottom of the $B_yGa_{(1-y)}P$ layer are the same, namely
20 a fourth lattice constant.

A detailed description is given in the following embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention can be more fully understood
25 by reading the subsequent detailed description and examples with references made to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a cross-section showing a light-emitting device having a buffer layer according to prior art;

FIG. 2 is a cross-section showing a light-emitting device according to one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a cross-section showing a light-emitting device according to another embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A preferred embodiment of the present invention is now described with reference to the figures.

10 In Fig. 2, according to the present invention, a light-emitting device comprises a substrate 200, a first buffer multilayer 202 deposited on the substrate 100, a second buffer multilayer 204 deposited on the first buffer multilayer 202, and a GaN base epitaxial layer 206
15 deposited on the second buffer multilayer 204. The components of the first buffer multilayer 202 and the second buffer multilayer 204 can be adjusted by changing atomic ratio. The lattice constant of the first buffer multilayer 202 changes with components used.

20 The lattice constant of the first buffer multilayer 202 ranges from a first lattice constant C_1 at the bottom of the first buffer multilayer 202 to a second lattice constant C_2 at the top of the first buffer multilayer 202. The lattice constant of the second buffer multilayer 204
25 ranges from a second lattice constant C_2 at the bottom of the second buffer multilayer 204 to a third lattice constant C_3 at the top of the second buffer multilayer 204. The first cladding layer 206 has a third lattice constant C_3 .

The lattice constant of the bottom layer of the first buffer multilayer 202, the first lattice constant C_1 , to substantially equal the lattice constant of the substrate. The lattice constant of the first buffer multilayer 202 can increase or decrease layer by layer, enabling the lattice constant of the top layer of the first buffer multilayer 202, the first lattice constant C_1 , to substantially equal the lattice constant of the bottom of the second buffer multilayer, the second lattice constant C_2 .

The lattice constant of the bottom layer of the second buffer multilayer 204, the second lattice constant C_2 , to substantially equal the lattice constant of the top layer of the first buffer multilayer 202, the first lattice constant C_1 . The lattice constant of the second buffer multilayer 204 can increase or decrease layer by layer, enabling the lattice constant of the top layer of the second buffer multilayer, the second lattice constant C_2 , to substantially equal the lattice constant of the first cladding layer, the third lattice constant C_3 .

According to the present invention, the first buffer multilayer 202 can comprise one specific component of different atomic ratio, as shown in Fig. 2, or more than one specific component with different atomic ratio, as shown in Fig. 3.

First Embodiment

In this embodiment, as shown in Fig. 2, the substrate 200 comprises silicon, 3C-SiC, or GaP. The first buffer multilayer 202 is represented by general formula $B_xGa_{(1-x)}P$ (where $0.02 \leq X \leq 1$). Furthermore, the

second buffer multilayer 204 is represented by general formula $\text{In}_y\text{Ga}_{(1-y)}\text{N}$ (where $0 \leq y \leq 0.059$). Thus, if the substrate 200 comprises silicon, the first lattice constant C_1 is about 5.431\AA . If the substrate 200 comprises 3C-SiC, the first lattice constant C_1 is about 4.32\AA . Finally, if the substrate 200 comprises GaP, the first lattice constant C_1 is about 5.45\AA . In all cases in this embodiment, the second lattice constant C_2 is about 4.538\AA , and the third lattice constant C_3 is about 4.51\AA .

Second Embodiment

In this embodiment, as shown in Fig. 3, the substrate 300 comprises GaAs. Moreover, the first buffer multilayer 302, 304 comprising $\text{GaAs}_x\text{P}_{(1-x)}$ 302 and $\text{B}_y\text{Ga}_{(1-y)}\text{P}$ 304 (where $0 \leq X \leq 1$, $0 \leq y \leq 1$) have two specific components of different atomic ratio. Furthermore, the second buffer multilayer 306 is represented by general formula $\text{In}_z\text{Ga}_{(1-z)}\text{N}$ (where $0 \leq z \leq 0.059$). Thus, the first lattice constant C_1 is about 5.653\AA , the second lattice constant C_2 is about 4.538\AA , and the third lattice constant C_3 is about 4.51\AA . The $\text{GaAs}_x\text{P}_{(1-x)}$ layer and the $\text{B}_y\text{Ga}_{(1-y)}\text{P}$ layer are matched, and lattice constant of the top layer of the $\text{GaAs}_x\text{P}_{(1-x)}$ layer 302 and that of the bottom of the $\text{B}_y\text{Ga}_{(1-y)}\text{P}$ layer 304 are the same, namely a fourth lattice constant C_4 .

The $\text{B}_x\text{Ga}_{(1-x)}\text{P}$ first buffer multilayer 202, 302 comprising boron phosphide (BP) is preferably formed on the substrate 200 by metalorganic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD) using precursors comprising a combination of trimethylgallium (TMG), BCl_3 , and PCl_3 or a combination of TMG, BCl_3 , and PH_3 . The temperature of the

reactive chamber housing the substrate 200 is brought to about 900~1180°C, preferably 1030°C.

The $\text{In}_z\text{Ga}_{(1-z)}\text{N}$ second buffer multilayer 204, 306 is preferably formed on the substrate 200 by metalorganic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD) using precursors comprising a combination of trimethylaluminum (TMAI), trimethyindium (TMIn), trimethylgallium (TMG), and NH_3 .

The GaN cladding layer 206, 308 formation is described herein as an example.

First, hydrogen, nitrogen and MMH are introduced into the chamber housing the substrate 200, 300 at about 350~500 °C. After 3 minutes, TMG is introduced into the chamber for about 20 minutes. 5 minutes later, the temperature of the chamber is brought to about 820°C. TMG is introduced into the chamber again for 60 minutes at about 820 °C. Throughout the entire process, MMH is continuously introduced. Finally, the temperature of the chamber is maintained at about 820°C for 30 minutes after stopping to introduce MMH and TMG. After decreasing the temperature of the chamber to room temperature, the process of forming the GaN epitaxial layer 206, 308 is accomplished.

According to the present invention, the light-emitting device further comprises an active layer 208, 310 deposited on the first cladding layer 206, 308, with a second cladding layer 210, 312 deposited on the active layer 208 and comprising a GaN-based semiconductor material.

The active layer 208, 310, consisting of a GaN-based semiconductor material, such as $\text{In}_y\text{Ga}_{(1-y)}\text{N}$, is preferably

formed by MOCVD using precursors comprising a combination of trimethylaluminum (TMAl), trimethylindium (TMIn), trimethylgallium (TMG), and NH_3 . The component ratio can be adjusted by changing atomic ratio.

5 The light-emitting device further comprises a window layer and a pair of electrodes. A surface ohmic electrode can be provided on the surface of the second cladding layer 210, 312 serving as a contact layer. In a p-type contact layer, the surface ohmic electrode can be
10 composed of a zinc(Zn)-containing alloy, such as indium zinc (InZn) and a gold beryllium (AuBe) alloy. These metals form a good ohmic contact with the second cladding layer 210, 312. For the pad electrode, a metal having low electric resistance, such as gold (Au) or aluminum
15 (Al), is preferably used. The surface ohmic electrode disposed in the periphery of the pad electrode on the surface of the second cladding layer 210, 312 allows the device operating current supplied through a window layer from the pad electrode thereon to diffuse over a wide
20 area of the light-emitting layer. The first type electrode 214, 316 is deposited on the back of the substrate 200, 300, and a second type electrode 212, 314 is deposited on the second cladding 210, 312. The substrate 200, 300 can be doped to equalize the
25 conductivities of the substrate and the first type electrode 214, 316. The second cladding layer 210, 312 can be doped to equalize the conductivities of the substrate and the second type electrode 212, 314.

30 Moreover, the light-emitting device of the present invention can further comprise a reflective multilayer

(not shown) deposited between the second buffer multilayer 204, 306 and the first cladding layer 206, 308. The reflective multilayer consists of a repeatedly stacked GaN/Al_xGa_{1-x}N (where $0.1 < x < 0.5$) with a super
5 lattice is preferably formed by MOCVD. A pair of GaN/Al_xGa_{1-x}N is repeated for 30~50 pairs. The thickness of a single layer of GaN or Al_xGa_{1-x}N is about 800~1600Å. The reflective multilayer with 95~99.99% reflection can serve as a distributed Bragg reflector (DBR) to enhance
10 light efficiency.

While the invention has been described by way of example and in terms of the preferred embodiments, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments. To the contrary, it is intended
15 to cover various modifications and similar arrangements (as would be apparent to those skilled in the art). Therefore, the scope of the appended claims should be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and similar arrangements.